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U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement

Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

•	I	For Six Month Per	riod Ending	11/30/12 (Insert date	e)	. ,		
		I	REGISTR	ANT				•
1. (a) Name of Registr	rant		(b) Regis	tration No.				
Bridges Interna	tional Group, LLC.		6074		·		• •	
(c) Business Addres 2440 Virginia Av Washington, DO	ve, N.W. #D-807,				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•		
. Has there been a cha	_	ion previously fur	rnished in co	nnection wit	h the follow	wing?		
(a) If an individual (1) Residence		Yes □	No 🗆	÷				
(2) Citizenship		Yes 🗌	No 🗆					
(3) Occupation	a	Yes □	No 🗌					
(b) If an organizati	ion:	•	•					
(1) Name		Yes 🗌	No 🗵	,				
(2) Ownership		Yes 🗆 🖰	No ⊠					
(3) Branch off		Yes 🗌	No ⊠	•				
(c) Explain fully a	Il changes, if any, ir	idicated in Items ((a) and (b) a	bove.			•	
								4
	•	•						
				٠.			•	
							•	
			•				•	

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

(PAGE 2)

	No ⊠					•
If yes, furnish the follo	owing information:			•		
Name	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,	Posi	ition	Date Co	onnection Ended
·						•
			•			
,			•		•	
•			:			
b) Have any persons beco Yes □	ome partners, officer No 🗵	s, directors or	similar offic	ials during this 6 r	nonth reporting peri	od?
If yes, furnish the follo	owing information:					
Name	Reside	nce Address	•	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
				100		
						•
			•			
						
a) Has any person namedYes □	l in Item 4(b) rendere No ⊠	ed services dire	ectly in furth	erance of the inter	ests of any foreign p	orincipal?
If yes, identify each su	ich person and descr	ibe the service	e rendered.		•	
•,						•
	*				•	*
d.					•	,
Name		nce Address		Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
•			٠.			
•					100	
				•		**
		ave filed a sho	ort form regis	stration statement,	terminated their em	ployment or
			ing period?	Yes 🗆		
connection with the re	gistrant during this (ing period?		No ⊠	
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo	gistrant during this (Yes 🗆	.No ⊠	Data Tampinatad
connection with the re	gistrant during this (ing period? . Position or	Yes 🗆	.No ⊠	Date Terminated
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo	gistrant during this (Yes 🗆	.No ⊠	Date Terminated
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo	gistrant during this (Yes 🗆	.No ⊠	Date Terminated
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo	gistrant during this (Yes 🗆	.No ⊠	Date Terminated
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo Name	gistrant during this eowing information: or individuals, who h	6 month report	Position or o	Yes □ Connection stration statement,	No ⊠	
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo Name	egistrant during this one owing information: or individuals, who has month reporting per	6 month report	Position or o	Yes □ Connection	No ⊠	
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo Name d) Have any employees o principal during this 6	egistrant during this of cowing information: or individuals, who he month reporting per cowing information:	6 month report	Position or o	Yes □ Connection stration statement,	No ⊠ I terminated their con	
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo Name d) Have any employees o principal during this 6 If yes, furnish the follo	egistrant during this of cowing information: or individuals, who he month reporting per cowing information:	5 month report ave filed a sho iod? Yes □	Position or o	Yes □ Connection stration statement, No ⊠	No ⊠ I terminated their con	nection with any forei
connection with the re If yes, furnish the follo Name d) Have any employees o principal during this 6 If yes, furnish the follo	egistrant during this of cowing information: or individuals, who he month reporting per cowing information:	5 month report ave filed a sho iod? Yes □	Position or o	Yes □ Connection stration statement, No ⊠	No ⊠ I terminated their con	nection with any forei
If yes, furnish the followane d) Have any employees of principal during this 6 If yes, furnish the followants	egistrant during this of cowing information: or individuals, who he month reporting per cowing information:	5 month report ave filed a sho iod? Yes □	Position or o	Yes □ Connection stration statement, No ⊠	No ⊠ I terminated their con	nection with any forei

(PAGE 3)

ESTANGA.		II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL	EN TRACE	
		cipal ended during this 6 month reporting pe	riod? Yes 🗌	No ⊠
ii yes, iumish the io	ollowing information:			
Foreign Principal	•		Date of Termination	.*
	•		• •	
	<i>.</i>			
,				
<u> </u>				
		$pol(s)^2$ during this 6 month reporting period?	Yes 🗆	No ⊠
If yes, furnish th fol	lowing information:			
Name and Address	of Foreign Principal(s)		Date Acquired	
	·			
•		÷		
	•		•	•
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	• .		1.5	
	named in Items 7 and 8	s, if any, list foreign principal(s) ² whom you	continued to represent de	uring the 6 mo
reporting period.	6			
Millennium Group	Services			
	•			
	•			
(a) Have you filed	exhibits for the newly a	acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in	Item 8?	
Exhibit A ³	Yes □	No □		
Exhibit B4	Yes 🗆	No 🗆		*
If no, please att	ach the required exhibi	t.		
(b) Have there been	n any changes in the Ex	chibits A and B previously filed for any forei	gn principal whom you	
represented dur	ing this six month perio	od? Yes □ N	o ⊠	
If yes, have you	ı filed an amendment to	o these exhibits? Yes \square N	o 🗵	
If no, please att	ach the required amend	lment.		
		•		

 ² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)
 3 The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.
 4 The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155) sets fourth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

(PAGE 4)

1.	During this 6 month reporting perinamed in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this st		you engage	d in any acti Yes ⊠	vities for or re No		services to an	y foreign princip
	If yes, identify each foreign princi	pal and de	escribe in fu	ıll detail you	r activities an	nd services:		
	please see the attached list of me	etings.		-				
		_						
				. ,				
							•	
			•			•	•	
					e e			
								<u> </u>
2.	During this 6 month reporting peri	iod, have y	you on beha	alf of any for	eign principa	il engaged in	political activ	vity ⁵ as defined b
	Yes ⊠ No □							
	the relations, interests and policies arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a pother speakers. Copy of five minutes	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	radio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave	peeches, l tter. panel on t ute statem	the Future on the result of the future of th	radio and TV of Lebanon ed.	broadcasts, part the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	ocracies with tw
3.	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a pother speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave in Lebanon.	peeches, letter. panel on the statem two on Co	the Future on the Future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed. rviews and o	broadcasts, at the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	aces of delivery, ocracies with tw ents and violend
3.	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a p other speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave in Lebanon.	peeches, letter. panel on the statem two on Co	lectures or r the Future nent attach amera inter	adio and TV of Lebanon ed. rviews and o	broadcasts, at the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	aces of delivery, ocracies with tw ents and violend
	arranged, sponsored or delivered s names of speakers and subject mat - June 15, 2012, Participated in a pother speakers. Copy of five minu - October 19, and 20, 2012, gave in Lebanon.	peeches, letter. panel on the statem two on Co	the Future on the Future of th	adio and TV of Lebanon ed. rviews and o	broadcasts, at the Found	give details a	s to dates, pla	aces of delivery, ocracies with tw ents and violend

⁵ The term "political activity" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

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IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a)	statement, or from an	ES reporting period, have you by other source, for or in the pensation or otherwise?					
	If no, explain why.			•			
	If yes, set forth below	v in the required detail and	separately for ea	ch foreign princip	al an account o	f such monies. ⁶	
	Date 7/18/12 8/16/12 10/29/12	From Whom Millennium Group Millennium Group Millennium Group	Retainer Retainer Retainer	Purpose		Amount \$16,960 \$33,960 \$33,960	
•							
						\$84,880	
						Total	_
(b)	During this 6 month	PRAISING CAMPAIGN reporting period, have you need in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this	-	of a fundraising co	ampaign ⁷ , any i No ⊠	noney on behalf of any	,
	If yes, have you filed	an Exhibit D to your regist	ration?	Yes 🗌	No 🗵	•	
	If yes, indicate the da	te the Exhibit D was filed.	Date				
(c)		reporting period, have you reporting period, have you report 9 of this statement, or from No					
	If yes, furnish the fol	lowing information:	•				
	Foreign Principal	Date Re	ceived	Thing of Valu	ıe	Purpose	

^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(e)).

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign

principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

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15. (a)	DISBURSEMENTS-MO	ONIES			
	During this 6 month report	rting period, have you			
	(1) disbursed or expende	ed monies in connection with ac	tivity on behalf of	any foreign princip	al named in Items 7, 8, or
	9 of this statement?	Yes ⊠ No □			
	(2) transmitted monies to	o any such foreign principal?	Yes 🗆	No ⊠	
	If no, explain in full detai	I why there were no disburseme	ents made on behal	f of any foreign pri	ncipal.
		the required detail and separately, to each foreign principal.	y for each foreign	orincipal an accour	t of such monies, including
	Date	To Whom	I	Purpose	Amount

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
June 2012	Various Taxi Companies	To go to meetings	\$60
July	various Taxi Companies	To go to meetings	\$50
August	Various Taxi Companies	To go to meetings	\$45
September	Various Taxi Companies	To go to meetings	\$90
October	Various Taxi Companies	To go to meetings	\$80
November	Various companies	To go to Meetings	\$95

\$420 Total

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•	Yes No No	\boxtimes			
If yes, furnish the	following information	:			
Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal		Thing of Value	Purpose
•	<i>;</i>				
				•	
		· .	4	•	•
			• •		, ·
					•
	•				
•	•				
	•				•
				•	
DISRURSEMEN	TS-POLITICAL CO	NTRIBUTIONS		•	•
During this 6 mon other person, made	th reporting period, ha e any contributions of	nve you from your own for money or other things of y election, convention, of	of value ¹¹ in	connection with an ele	ction to any politica
,	Yes \(\square \) No	\boxtimes			
If yes, furnish the	following information	:			
	Amount or Thing	•		zation or Candidate	Location of Ever

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

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V-INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period Yes ☐ No ☒	od, did you prepare, disseminate or caus	se to be disseminated any informational materials? ¹⁷
If Yes, go to Item 17.		
(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), d	lo vou disseminate any material in conn	nection with your registration?
Yes □ No ⊠	o you disseminate any material in com	iodion will your regionation.
If Yes, please forward the materials dis	seminated during the six month period	to the Registration Unit for review.
17. Identify each such foreign principal.	•	
18. During this 6 month reporting period, h	as any foreign principal established a b	oudget or allocated a specified sum of money to
finance your activities in preparing or d	lisseminating informational materials?	Yes □ No ⊠
If yes, identify each such foreign princi	pal, specify amount, and indicate for w	hat period of time.
19. During this 6 month reporting period, d materials include the use of any of the f		nating or causing the dissemination of informationa
•	ine or newspaper	ilms
☐ Advertising campaigns ☐ Press re		ner publications Lectures or speeches
Other (specify)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Electronic Communications	• .	
☐ Email		
☐ Website URL(s):	•	
☐ Social media websites URL(s):		
☐ Other (specify)		
20. During this 6 month reporting period, d the following groups:	id you disseminate or cause to be disser	minated informational materials among any of
☐ Public officials	☐ Newspapers	☐ Libraries
☐ Legislators	☐ Editors	☐ Educational institutions
☐ Government agencies	☐ Civic groups or associations	s
Other (specify)		
21. What language was used in the informa	itional materials:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
☐ English	Other (specify)	
22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, disseminated or caused to be dissemina	• • •	F-1
23. Did you label each item of such information Yes ☐ No ☐	ational materials with the statement req	uired by Section 4(b) of the Act?

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

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In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)	(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature				
December 27, 2012			/s/ Amal M	1udallali	eSigned
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
					· · · · · ·

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

Meetings June 1, 2012-December 31, 2012.

June 7: Meeting with Ludovic Hood, Lebanon Desk, State Department. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

June 12: Meeting with Robert Mccutcheon, Lebanon Desk, State Department. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

June 15: Participated in a panel about Lebanon. Copy of talk attached.

June 19: Meeting with Hagar Hajjar, Lebanon director at the National Security Council. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

June 20: Meeting with Robert Mccutcheon, Lebanon Desk, the State Department. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

July 24: Meeting with Vance Serchuk, foreign policy advisor to Senator Joseph Lieberman. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

July 26: Meeting with Hagar Hajjar, Lebanon director, the National Security Council, discussed American-Lebanese relations.

July 31: Meeting with Ludovic Hood, Lebanon Desk, the State Department, discussed American-Lebanese relations.

August 14: participated in a group meeting with Arab American leaders with Deputy Secretary of State William Burns, State Department. Discussion focused on American-Lebanese relations.

August 23: Meeting with Under Secretary of State Ambassador Wendy Sherman, discussed American-Lebanese relations.

August 30: Meeting with Elitzabeth Dibble, Deputy assistant Secretary of State for the Near East. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

August 31: Meeting with Johathan Finer, office of the Vice President, Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

August 31: Meeting with Steve Conlon, Director for Syria and Lebanon at National Security Council, Discussed American Lebanese relations.

September 18: Accompanied Ambassador Mohammad Chatah, Foreign Policy advisor to the head of the Future Movement in Lebanon to the Following meetings:

3:00 PM: Meeting with Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East Elizabeth Jones, discussed American –Lebanese relations.

4:00 PM: Meeting with Fred Hoff, special coordinator on Syria and Lebanon at the State Department, discussed American-Lebanese relations.

September 19: Accompanied ambassador Chatah to a meeting with Steve Simon, at the White House, discussed American-Lebanese relations.

October 18: Meeting with Ludovic Hood, Lebanon Desk, State Department. Discussed American-Lebanese relations.

October 19, 20, interviews With CNN on the events and violence in Lebanon.

November 13, 2012: Accompanied Former Prime Minister of Lebanon Fouad Siniora to the following meeting:

8:00 AM: Meeting with Congressional Staff on the Middle East, discussed American-Lebanese relations.

2:00 PM: accompanied Former Prime Minister Fouad Siniora to a meeting with Mr. David Cohen, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Treasury Department. Discussion focused on American-Lebanese relations.

3:30 PM: Attended meeting between Mr. Siniora and Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns and Assistant Secretary of State Elizabeth Jones and Lebanon Desk Officer at the State Department Ludovic Hood.

November 14: Accompanied Mr. Siniora to a meeting at the White House attended by Mr. Dennis McDonough, Deputy National Security Advisor, and Steve Simon, Sr. Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the NSC.

The Future of Lebanon at the Defense of Democracy Forum. 6/15.12

My mentor and An Nahar publisher who died last week Mr. Ghassan Tueini called the civil war in Lebanon "the war of others", in his book with the same title. I am afraid that if Lebanon slides into a civil war this time it will be of their own making and fought by their own hands.

I believe, and I hope that this is not only an act of faith, that Lebanon is not and will not plunge into a new civil war as a result of the internal tensions between the Shiites and the Sunnis and because of the divisions in the country over the Syrian crisis. No party in Lebanon has an interest in a civil war now but there are so many similarities between today and 1975 that is giving the majority of Lebanese who still remember it heartache. I would argue that this situation is also similar to 1958 as much as 1975 with a reversal of roles of the main players.

I will mention some of the pressures and the solutions that are being put forward by both sides and speculate on where this is all going and you can judge if it is 1975, 1958 or a mere 2012.

in Sinks

Regional Context:

1-Once again Lebanon is caught in the midst of a regional confrontation. The Syrian-Iranian axis has its internal Lebanese partner in Hizbullah that is holding the levers of power in Lebanon and facing off with the democracy pro western movement, which unlike 1958 is not in power but in the opposition. This axis supported by Russia (in 1958 it was the Soviet Union), and Iraq can be counted in it.

Internal context:

2-Two major Lebanese sects, the Shiites and the Sunnis both feel they are targeted. The Shiites, especially Hizbullah believes that it has been

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targeted since the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon. They point to the 2006 war, to the STL, to the calls to disarm as a proof that there is a Western –Arab-Lebanese plan targeting the party and the community. In yesterday's Al Joumhuriah newspaper a Hizbullah member of parliament was quoted as telling his loyalists "we are targeted as a Shiite community more than any time before. There is a Western Arab agreement to weaken us and to break us if their plan, to drive us out of the country and the South, does not work. They went to push us away from confronting Israel".

3-The Sunni community on the other hand is angry and feels it is targeted in its political role, its leadership and its image and that manifested itself lately in the violent outbursts in the streets of Lebanon. They recite a long list of grievances that they date back to the Syrian intervention in the 1970s. They speak of the alliance of the minorities between the regime in Syria and Hizbullah. The Sunnis do not think of themselves as a minority, they see themselves as part and extension of the majority Sunni Arab world.

- 4-The killing of late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri further increased their fears and the indictment of four Hizbullah operatives sent the tension between the two communities to new heights. But the turning point was the May 7, 2008 military campaign by Hizbullah against Beirut and AL Moustqbal movement because Hizbullah has used its weapons against its fellow Lebanese. The "resistance" weapons became an internal threat now. Some Sunnis dubbed this as a military coup by Hizbullah.
- 5-Toppling the Saad Hariri government, while he was visiting Washington, and in the oval office, was seen by the March 14th and the Sunnis as the political coup. The appointment of Najib Mikati as a prime Minister was opposed as an act by Hizbullah to appoint the Sunni prime minister.
- 6-The events in Tripoli added to the sense of insecurity among the Sunnis who accuse the government and the state of doing the bidding of Hizublah and the Syrians.
- 7-The call of Nassrullah for a new "constituent assembly" to discuss options including the Taef, the power sharing formula which ended the war, was

- seen by the March 14th coalition and the Sunnis as a call for a new constitution and shuffling the Lebanese cards. Red alarms went off in the Lebanese political scene.
- 8-There is also the new sense of empowerment that the Sunnis of Lebanon feel as a result of the Arab Spring. They see their actions as a reaction to the Hizbullah behavior over the last 20 years. Extremism brings extremism and violence encourages violence. Sheikh Salah Bakri, a Sunni Islamist in Tripoli was quoted two days ago as saying "there is now a Northern Dahiya (district) in the face of the Southern Dahiya (the headquarters of Hizbullah) as a result of the reluctance of the government to protect its citizens and because the government has been transformed into a P.O.Box for the Syrian regime".

This brings us to the regional factor, the Syrian crisis.

The Lebanese are divided over the crisis in Syria. The March 14 th, Sunnis included, see the government's policy of dissociation as hypocritical. They too want to distance Lebanon from regional problems but they accuse the government of double standards when it

punishes their side if they help the Syrian people while turning a blind eye to Hizbullah and its allies helping the Syrian regime.

March 14th and the majority of the Sunnis believe that the Syrian regime is trying to export its crisis to Lebanon to use Lebanon as a card again after losing the Hamas card. The daily shooting inside the Lebanese border by the Syrian army and its Shabiha and the kidnapping of Lebanese who support the Syrian opposition is creating a very tense Lebanese -Syrian border and fueling anxieties at what the Syrian regime will do next. There are rumors that it might cross over to punish the Syrians who sought refuge to Lebanon. The resurfacing of the PFLF-GC leader in Lebanon, with President Assad in Damascus two days ago and in Terhran with President Najad is a source of concern in Lebanon on what might be in his pocket for Lebanon. The spate of kidnappings between ALawis and Sunnis in Akkar early this week and the burning of each sides' businesses and homes brought back the ghosts of 1975.

The letter of the Syrian ambassador to the UN claiming that "parts of the Lebanese territory adjacent to the Syrian border has become a hub for terrorist elements of AL Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood to destabilize Syrian security", and Hizbullah's accusations that their Lebanese opponents are smuggling arms to Syria is inflaming Sunnis and Lebanese in the North. (we can discuss the border in the Q and A in detail if you like).

The killing of a Sunni Sheikh Abd ALwahid, on a Lebanese army check point in Akkar, known for his support for the Syrian opposition brought things to the brink few weeks ago.

DIALOGUE:

Calls for dialogue came from both sides and it was very obvious that neither side wants things to go off the cliff. March 14th presented its plan for saving Lebanon calling for a solution to the Hizubllah "weapons" problem, called for demarcation of the borders

between Lebanon and Syria and distancing Lebanon from the regional and international axes. The plan called for a new neutral government that gains the confidence of the Lebanese people and prepares for the upcoming elections.

The president called for a dialogue session in Baabda Palace afraid of the "fire next to my home", referring to Syria. The session was held in the absence of the three major players: Nassrullah, Hariri and GeaGea. The last two were represented but GeaGea refused to participate in a futile exercise, as he called it. Everybody knew that nothing will come out of the session as long as the situation in Syria was still unresolved.

As expected the Hizbullah weapons were not on the table, but their shadow was looming over the room. The Hizbullah representative in the dialogue reportedly threatened his dialogue partners that the civil war in Lebanon will be a picnic this time compared to 1975.

The surprise was a prepared statement they called it the "Babda Declaration", which affirmed commitment

to the Taef Accords, and implementing all its articles (Hizbullah MPs were calling or implementing the article related to Syria mainly that Lebanon should never be used as a launching grounds to harm Syria), and keeping the door open for looking "into every desire to develop it or amend it". The Declaration called also for distancing Lebanon from the axes policies and regional and international conflicts; as well as controlling the Lebanese-Syrian border and not allow the establishment of a buffer zone in Lebanon or using Lebanon as a base or path for smuggling men and arms to Syria". President Suleiman was very frank in an interview with Al Akhbar this week when he said the most important thing in the Baabda Declaration was that Lebanon is saying to the world "do not ask me for a Safe Haven". I agree with him this was the most important thing in the statement and may be that was the main reason for holding the dialogue especially it was interesting that the government sent copies of the Declaration to the UN and the Arab League.

I asked a seasoned politician in Lebanon what did he think of the dialogue and what it had accomplished.

His answer was one short: Aspirin" i.e Temporary relief and nothing more.

People that I value their opinion believe that Lebanon will not enter another civil war but it will not rest either. It will stay in the hospital with fever that will rise regularly depending on the state of the Syrian patient. Or if the regional equation changes as it did in 1958 when the Baghdad Pact collapsed. The pact that its fate is in the balance this time is the Iran-Syria — Hizbullah pact, because it is linked to the survival of the Assad regime and to how the Iranian nuclear issue will be dealt with in the next few month. The Lebanese and the Syrians this time are fastening their seat belts.